

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2035

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, UK, EEC

SUBJECT: UK TARIFF TREATMENT OF KRAFT LINERBOARD

REF: LONDON 5872

1. E/C MINISTER CALLED ON DEPT OF TRADE DEPUTY SECRETARY GRAY TO REINFORCE OUR CONCERN THAT NO SOLUTION HAS YET BEEN FOUND TO THE KRAFT LINER PROBLEM. WE NOTED THAT THE SUPPORT FOR A TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF DUTY FROM ONE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION AND OPPOSITION FROM ANOTHER ASSOCIATION APPEARED TO HAVE BROUGHT THE DEPT OF TRADE TO AN IMPASSE ON THIS QUESTION. (WE DID NOT MENTION THAT OUR CONTINUED REPRESENTATIONS TO HM CUSTOMS ON THE TECHNICAL ISSUE OF WHETHER OR NOT US KRAFT IS "PURE" HAD WITHIN THE LAST FEW DAYS RESULTED IN A REAPPRAISAL OF THEIR LABORATORY TECHNIQUES AND A HINT THAT THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THEY MIGHT ACCEPT US TESTING TECHNIQUES WHICH FIRD THE KRAFT TO BE ESSENTIALLY PURE.)

2. GRAY WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT DEPT OF TRADE BEING ABLE TO RECOMMEND A SUSPENSION OF DUTY TO PARLIAMENT IF
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THE BRITISH PAPER BOARD MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION RE-

MAINS FIRM IN ITS OPOSITION TO SUCH A MOVE. GRAY'S
IMPRESSION IS THAT THE ASSOCIATION WOULD FIND IT DIFFI-
CULT TO WITHDRAW ITS OBJECTION AS IT IS "BECOMING JUST AS
EMOTIONAL ABOUT THE ISSUE AS THE AMERICAN POWER INDUSTRY."
HE THEN RAISED THE MATTER OF THE HM CUSTOMS RE-EXAMINA-
TION OF THEIR TESTING TECHNIQUES AND SAID IF THE GOVERN-
MENT LABORATORY IS FOUND TO BE WRONG IN ITS TECHNICAL
JUDGMENTS A SOLUTION WILL BE CLEAR. HE WAS QUITE
CAUTIOUS, BUT FOR A SENIOR OFFICIAL TO HOLD OUT THIS
POSSIBILITY IS A POSITIVE SIGN. BOTH GRAY AND HM CUSTOMS
SAY THE ANSWER TO THE TECHNICAL QUESTION SHOULD BE DECI-
DED WITHIN A FEW DAYS.
ARMSTRONG

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Message Attributes

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